

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are pending in the present application, with claims 1, 17 and 32 being the independent claims. In the Official Action, dated September 22, 2005, claims 1-2, 5-6, 9-18, 21-22, 25-33, 36-37 and 40-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by US Publication No. 2002/0002562 A1 (Moran). Claims 3-4, 19-20 and 34-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Moran in view of US Patent No. 6,570,582 (Sciammarella). Claims 7, 23 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Moran in view of US Patent No. 6,014,135 (Fernandes). Claims 8, 24 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Moran.

Claims 17 and 32 were amended herein at the Examiner's invitation on page 9 of the Official Action to clarify that the time period of interest on the timeline is by direct association to the events, people, places and things, and therefore *not by indirect association*. No new matter was added.

The outstanding rejection to the claims based on the art of record is respectfully traversed based on the present amendments and below remarks.

Summary of the Invention

Applicants' invention provides a unique representation of events, places, people and things as user interface elements representing items of a digital history based on unique identification.

The user interface makes cross-correlations for events, places, people and things stored in a digital history store. The events, places, people and things are then displayed in a way that makes sense for a time period of interest specified via a timeline. In various

embodiments, the events, places, people and things are displayed in a navigation portion relating to the time period of interest in way that intuitively expresses a relative presence of the events, places, people and things in a user's life for the time period, where the navigation portion allows the user to quickly navigate to items of interest.

In some embodiments of the invention, based on frequency and recency usage patterns, and/or user preferences, items are assigned relative weights and displayed accordingly in the timeline portion and navigation region of the user interface. *Each item that can be displayed within the system has a unique identification, which may be translated to one or more visual symbols within the user interface.*

Moran and the Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

As the Examiner begins to identify on pages 8 and 9 of the Official Action, Moran is somewhat different than Applicants' invention. In conjunction with the other elements of Applicants' claims, Applicants' invention as recited by claim 1 requires that each event, person, place and thing relating to the selected time period of interest have a unique icon associated with it that is displayed on the timeline. This may be achieved, as described above, via unique identifications assigned to each item in the user's digital history store.

In contrast, Moran's elements of Figs. 11, 12 and 13 clearly do not each have a unique icon (see repetition of rectangles and triangles).

In further contrast, Moran's elements of Fig. 14 are not on a timeline at all (some sort of conference room representation).

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 to claim 1 is thus earnestly solicited.

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37 CFR § 1.116**

Applicants have also amended claims 17 and 32 in the manner suggested by the Examiner to distinguish over the Moran reference, and accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejection to claims 17 and 32. Applicants invite the Examiner to consider further clarifying language if the Examiner should believe the present recitation remains unclear.

Claims 2-16, 18-31 and 33-44 depend from base claims 1, 17 and 32, respectively, either directly or indirectly, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Sciammarella and Fernandes were cited for reasons relating to the dependent claims (recency analysis and drag and drop, respectively), but also fail to cure the above-identified deficiency of Moran with respect to Applicants' independent claims. Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to the above-identified claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 is respectfully requested.

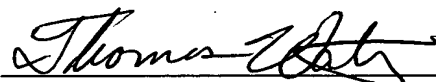
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CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action, and submit that Claims 1-44 of the application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience is earnestly solicited.

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